



83415RLO
Customer No. 01333

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

John R. Fredlund, et al

SELECTING AN IMAGE BEARING
PRODUCT REQUIRING A
PARTICULAR SIZE IMAGE
CONVERTED FROM A HIGH
RESOLUTION DIGITAL IMAGE

Serial No. US 09/960,678

Filed 21 September 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Group Art Unit: not yet assigned

Examiner: not yet assigned

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited today with the
United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to
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Paula West
Paula West

11-13-01
Date

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please
enter the following amendments without prejudice.

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 10 with the
following rewritten paragraph:

--FIGS. 5A and 5B are listings depicting service account
information including images and corresponding image bearing products to be
produced;--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 26 through
page 6, line 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The electronic database 44 includes information describing
different features of the albums and other photo products 66 that can be selected
and customized by the customer at the remote location, using the customer's
computer 10. The electronic database 44 also includes information describing
photo product options, for example album features such as providing various

background colors or textures, page numbers, page captions, image captions, etc. The album pages can be bound in a cover, or can include holes to permit the pages to be inserted into a standard binder, such as a three-ring binder. These album feature options can be demonstrated via software programs, for example, JAVA applets, MPEG or QuickTime movies, or Shockwave files, which depict the functionality of features that the customer can choose. The electronic database 44 also stores the file size requirements for each type and size of image-bearing products that can be ordered by the user, as will be described later in reference to FIGS. 5A & 5B.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In block 104, a user service account is established for the user. The information stored in the service account includes the information entered by the user in block 102. FIGS. 5A & 5B provide examples of the service account information. The billing information (e.g. credit card number) and other sensitive information provided in the service account can be encrypted to prevent discovery and unauthorized use. The service account information is preferably stored as part of the electronic database 44 in the fulfillment center 40. Alternatively, it is possible for some of the service account information to be stored in the customer's computer 10, for example on the hard drive 20, and communicated to the fulfillment center 40 as required.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 27 through page 13, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Information describing the products selected by the user can be stored in the service account information depicted in FIGS. 5A & 5B. As shown in the example depicted in FIG. 5A, the service account information includes the user name, password, user e-mail address, user shipping address, and billing information (lines 3-7 in FIG. 5A). Some or all of this information may be encrypted for security reasons. The service account information can also include the shipping addresses for one or more designees (lines 9-11 in FIG. 5A). This information is stored in the service account during block 105 described earlier.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The image list (lines 13-42 in FIGS. 5A & 5B) in the service account information provides a list of image identifiers (e.g. image names) and designated dates for each of the images that were uploaded from home computer system 10 to fulfillment center 40 and stored in electronic database 44 uploaded. The upload list provides a reference number (e.g. Image 1), an image name (e.g. DCP_0012.JPG) and an upload date (e.g. 14/01/1999 for January 14, 1999). The upload list also provides an image size (e.g. 720 x 1080 pixels). In the example of FIGS. 5A & 5B, a large number (more than 600) images have been uploaded, but only a few of the image list entries are shown. The image list information is stored in the service account during block 109 described earlier.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 13 through page 14, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The service account information also provides information defining the products selected by the user. In the example of FIG. 5B, several products having different identifiers (ID) such as Product ID-1 (lines 45-57) which specifies a customized album, Product ID-2 (lines 59-66) which specifies a framed print, and Product ID-3 (lines 68-76) which specifies customized service prints. The album related information (lines 45-57) includes the album size/type style selected (line 47). It further includes the number of pictures per page selected by the user (line 48), which is 6 in the example of FIG. 5A, and the required image size (line 49 in FIG. 5B). To fit 6 images on each 8" x 10" page, the image size is 2.4" x 3.6". Since the color hardcopy printer 54 used to produce 8" x 10" album pages uses, in this example, 300 pixels per inch, the resolution requirement is 720 x 1080 pixels. The service account information also includes page number information, such as the style, font/color of the text, and the last page number printed (lines 51-54 in FIG. 5B). The last page number information is updated each time new album pages are printed. It can be used to automatically tell the user when an album has been filled, and a new album needs to be purchased. The album related information also includes a list of image numbers

(line 23 in FIG. 5A) to be included in the album. These image numbers correspond to image identifiers listed in the Image list section (lines 13-42 in FIGS. 5A & 5B). Therefore, each of the uploaded images identified should have an uploaded image size of at least 720 x 1080 pixels. The album related information also indicates that designee #2 should receive the order (line 56 in FIG. 5B), and provides the order status (line 57 in FIG. 5B). The order status indicates that this image bearing product has been ordered by the user, but not yet fulfilled (e.g. not yet produced and shipped). Once fulfilled, the status will be updated to indicate that this order has been completed.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 19 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The framed print information in FIG. 5B (lines 59-66) specifies the frame size/image size (line 61) and the required image size (line 62). Since the color hardcopy printer 54 used to produce 10" x 15" enlargements uses, in this example, 200 pixels per inch, the resolution requirement is 2000 x 3000 pixels. The frame style and color, and matte style are specified (line 63). The framed print information also includes a list of image numbers (line 64) to be used to produce the framed print. This image number (Image number 56) corresponds to the image identifier listed for image number 56 in the Image list section (line 20 in FIG. 5A), which is the image identified as DCP_00213.JPG. Note that this image has been uploaded using an image size of 2000 x 3000 pixels, which is much larger than the other image files, since it is to be used to produce an enlargement, as well being used to produce a small album page image. The information also indicates that designee #2 should receive the order (line 65 in FIG. 5B) and the order status (line 66 in FIG. 5B)--.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The service print information (lines 68-75 in FIG. 5B) specifies the print size (line 70 in FIG. 5B) as well as the required image size (line 71 in FIG. 5B). Since the color hardcopy printer 54 used to produce service prints uses, in this example, 300 pixels per inch, the resolution requirement is 1200 x 1800

pixels. The service print information also includes the print finish, and the location, font style, size, and color of the date to be overlaid in the print (lines 72-73 in FIG. 5B). It also includes a list of image numbers (line 73 in FIG. 5B) to be printed. Since Image 512 (line 34 in FIG. 5A) through Image 515 (line 37 in FIG. 5A) are to be printed as 4" x 6" service prints as well as smaller images on album pages, these digital images are uploaded as 1200 x 1800 pixel size images (lines 34-37 in FIG. 5A). The service print information also indicates that designee #1 should receive the prints (line 74 in FIG. 5B) and the order status (line 75 in FIG. 5B). The service print information could also specify other text or graphics selected by the user that should be added to the images when they are printed.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In block 123, the customer account provided in the service account information (FIGS. 5A & 5B) is billed for the order. The bill reflects the price of the image bearing products ordered by the customer. At this point, the financial institution having the customer's account designates such funds for transfer to the service provider.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 26 through page 16, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In block 124, the production controller 52 produces the customized image bearing products using the uploaded images and the service account information (see FIGS. 5A & 5B) stored in electronic database 44. If the user has ordered an album, the uploaded digital images can be automatically arranged on the pages and printed by color hardcopy printer 54 to produce album pages 56 as described in commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/347,310, filed July 2, 1999 to Loui et al.; U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/199,724, filed November 25, 1998 to Shaffer et al; and Serial No. 09/199,639, filed November 25, 1998 to Shaffer et al., the disclosures of which are herein incorporated by reference. The last page number (line 54) in the service account information provided in FIG. 5B is updated to reflect the number of album pages that will be produced to complete the current order.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--If the user has ordered framed prints, the digital images are printed using color hardcopy printer 54 to produce hardcopy prints 58. Each hardcopy print 58 includes the user selected matte border, for example the texture - wood grain border specified in line 63 of FIG. 5B. Each hardcopy print 58 is then framed using the appropriate frame 68, for example the classic - walnut frame specified in line 63 of FIG. 5B. If the user has ordered service prints, the digital images are printed using color hardcopy printer 54 to produce hardcopy prints 58. The hardcopy prints 58 use the size and finish specified in lines 70 and 72 of FIG. 5B. Before printing, each digital image is overlaid with the date stamp as specified in line 73 of FIG. 5B.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In block 126, the production controller 52 in FIG. 1 controls the shipping label printer 70 to produce the shipping label 74 using the shipping address of the customer or customer's designee provided in the service account information (see FIG. 5B). The shipping label 74 is attached to the shipping container 64 that is used to ship the image bearing product 66.--

REMARKS

Formal drawings are submitted herewith under separate letter in response to the Notice To File Corrected Application Papers dated October 18, 2001. It is believed these drawings are in compliance with 37 CFR 1.84.

Approval by the Examiner of these drawings is respectfully requested.

Changes to the specification have been made to coincide with newly labeled FIGS. 5A and 5B which replace former FIG. 5.

It is believed that these changes now make the specification clear and definite and, if there are any problems with these changes, Applicants' attorney would appreciate a telephone call. Accordingly, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, the notice of which is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to Show Changes Made"**.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure

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of the electronic database 44 in the fulfillment center 40. Alternatively, it is possible for some of the service account information to be stored in the customer's computer 10, for example on the hard drive 20, and communicated to the fulfillment center 40 as required.--

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--In block 124, the production controller 52 produces the customized image bearing products using the uploaded images and the service account information (see FIGS. 5A & 5B) stored in electronic database 44. If the user has ordered an album, the uploaded digital images can be automatically arranged on the pages and printed by color hardcopy printer 54 to produce album pages 56 as described in commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/347,310, filed July 2, 1999 to Loui et al.; U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/199,724, filed November 25, 1998 to Shaffer et al; and Serial No. 09/199,639, filed November 25, 1998 to Shaffer et al., the disclosures of which are herein incorporated by reference. The last page number (line 54) in the service account information provided in FIG. 5B is updated to reflect the number of album pages that will be produced to complete the current order.--

The paragraph beginning on page 16, line 6 has been amended as set forth below:

--If the user has ordered framed prints, the digital images are printed using color hardcopy printer 54 to produce hardcopy prints 58. Each hardcopy print 58 includes the user selected matte border, for example the texture - wood grain border specified in line 63 of FIG. 5B. Each hardcopy print 58 is then framed using the appropriate frame 68, for example the classic - walnut frame specified in line 63 of FIG. 5B. If the user has ordered service prints, the digital images are printed using color hardcopy printer 54 to produce hardcopy prints 58. The hardcopy prints 58 use the size and finish specified in lines 70 and 72 of FIG. 5B. Before printing, each digital image is overlaid with the date stamp as specified in line 73 of FIG. 5B.--

The paragraph beginning on page 16, line 16 has been amended as set forth below:

--In block 126, the production controller 52 in FIG. 1 controls the shipping label printer 70 to produce the shipping label 74 using the shipping

Variable	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Skewness	Kurtosis	Normality
Age	35.2	12.5	18	65	0.15	3.2	0.98
Gender	1.2	0.4	1	2	0.05	3.0	0.99
Marital Status	1.8	0.4	1	2	0.05	3.0	0.99
Education	12.5	2.5	8	16	0.15	3.2	0.98
Income	1500	500	500	3000	0.15	3.2	0.98
Occupation	1.5	0.5	1	3	0.05	3.0	0.99
Health Status	1.2	0.4	1	2	0.05	3.0	0.99
Stress Level	2.5	1.0	1	4	0.15	3.2	0.98
Life Satisfaction	3.5	1.0	1	5	0.15	3.2	0.98
Resilience	2.8	0.8	1	4	0.15	3.2	0.98
Optimism	3.2	0.8	1	4	0.15	3.2	0.98
Emotional Stability	2.5	0.8	1	4	0.15	3.2	0.98
Self-Esteem	3.0	0.8	1	4	0.15	3.2	0.98
Life Satisfaction	3.5	1.0	1	5	0.15	3.2	0.98
Resilience	2.8	0.8	1	4	0.15	3.2	0.98
Optimism	3.2	0.8	1	4	0.15	3.2	0.98
Emotional Stability	2.5	0.8	1	4	0.15	3.2	0.98
Self-Esteem	3.0	0.8	1	4	0.15	3.2	0.98